

**Water/Wastewater Commissioners’
Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2011**

Present: Robert E. Courage, Chairman
Michael E. Putnam, Vice-Chairman
Dale A. White, Member
David Boucher
Evelyn Gendron

Call to Order:

Chairman Courage called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and said that the first order of business was to enter into Non-Public Session.

Non-Public Session (RSA 91-A:3) (Land):

At 6:05 p.m., Commissioner White made the motion to go into Non-Public Session for the purpose of discussing land, and polled Chairman Courage, and Vice-Chairman Putnam. Vice-Chairman Putnam seconded the motion and all voted in favor. At 6:20 p.m. Chairman Courage made the motion to end the non-public session, seconded by Vice-Chairman Putnam and all voted in favor. Chairman Courage made no announcements.

Decisions:

Approval of Final Minutes – Chairman Courage made the motion to table the minutes of the meeting held November 22, 2011 until the next meeting. Commissioner White seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Water Users Fee/Tax Collector’s Warrant – The Commissioners signed this document as presented for the November 2011 Bill Commitment 111130 and for the November 2011 Final Bills issued.

Sewer Users Fee/Tax Collector’s Warrant – The Commissioners signed this document as presented for the November 2011 Bill Commitment 111130 and for the November 2011 Final Bills issued.

Sewer Rate Change – Stoney Creek Condominiums – Superintendent. Boucher said this topic was tabled during the previous meeting, that representatives from Stoney Creek Condominiums wanted to be billed as individual residential owners versus within the commercial category, and that town counsel had recommended not to, citing it would be difficult to differentiate the impact from one building of 18 units and another building of 18 units owned by one person, and while the Rules and Regulations could be changed, a public hearing would be necessary first. The approximate billing differences were discussed, with Mr. Boucher estimating a difference of \$7 - \$9 per quarter, per unit, or about \$465 x 4 quarters. Vice-Chairman recalled the vicinity’s higher sewer main maintenance costs, as the Stoney Creek Condominiums are not typical condo’s metered separately. Vice-Chairman Putnam made the motion to leave the billing as it is currently categorized, as a commercial entity. Commissioner White seconded

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the motion. Chairman Courage asked “all those in favor?” Commissioner White and Vice-Chairman Putnam said “Aye” and Chairman Courage said “Nay. The Ayes have it.” Commissioner White said that, for the record, the reason for his vote is because the condominiums are not individually metered. Chairman Courage said he stands opposed to the commission’s majority vote.

Proposed Wilton Septage facility Correspondence – Superintendent Boucher distributed the letter which Attorney Drescher had drafted, printed on Milford Water Utilities letterhead for signature and approval by the commissioners, as discussed during the November 22nd commissioners’ meeting and in response to statements made by Mr. Harold Wheeler during a recent Town of Wilton Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. Boucher said that the records should accurately reflect Milford’s position of not being in support of a septage receiving facility within Wilton. Following Mr. Boucher’s recollections of his one informal meeting, one tour and one email of Wilton flow capacity figures (as requested by Mr. Wheeler) during the span of a few years, the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners and Mr. Boucher signed the letter to be sent to the Wilton Board of Selectmen and the Wilton Board of Sewer Commissioners.

Sewer Rate Study - Mr. Boucher circulated the hand-outs entitled Comparison of Proposed 2012 Sewer Rate Changes and 2012 Sewer Rate Study prepared by Mrs. Hardwick, Water Utilities Billing Clerk, present this evening for discussion to illustrate a variety of proposed rates of sewer increase calculated on 2010 numbers provided by Mr. Sheehy, Director of Financial Operations, based on the number of residential and commercial users and compared with current charges. Upon comparison of annual sewer bill costs contained within the state’s survey (240 gallons per day average usage), the commissioners agreed that Milford rates are lower than what the average NH sewer customer is paying. Vice-Chairman Putnam made the motion to proceed with plans for an 18% sewer rate increase with bills rendered in 2012, with a future increase of 10% in the coming years to eventually bring the sewer rate up to the 28% as the 2006 sewer rate study had projected the Town of Milford should be at presently. Commissioner White seconded the motion. All voted in favor. A hearing to be held in Town Hall will be scheduled and Mrs. Hardwick will begin the notification process throughout town in May via quarterly water/sewer bills. Mr. Boucher will obtain state survey figures without the word “draft” appearing on the copy and will email cubic foot usage calculations to Commissioner White.

Discussion/Information Items:

Septage Receiving Facility Project Update – Superintendent Boucher apprised the commissioners of the most recent activities.

Curtis Well Field Update – Superintendent Boucher apprised the commissioners of the most recent activities and will be discussing the continuing SCADA issues.

Activity Report - Reviewed by Commissioners. Commissioner White said he enjoyed the level of detail provided by the Water Department Foreman. Mr. Boucher discussed plans to retire Prospect Tank.

Budget Advisory Committee – The commissioners asked Mr. Boucher to schedule a 2012 budget presentation for January 11, 2012.

Future Appointments/Meetings:

The next Water and Wastewater Commissioners' meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at the Water Utilities Department, 564 Nashua Street.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner White at 7:25 p.m. Vice-Chairman Putnam seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn B. Gendron

Robert E. Courage, Chairman

Date

Michael E. Putnam, Vice-Chairman

Date

Dale A. White, Commissioner

Date